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4th Parade is Setting for Latest Murder-Mystery

By MORAG MacLACHLAN

It is a gorgeous summer day. The sun's warm rays dance against the cool ocean water; the sound of children's laughter can be heard and the excitement associated with the day's activities can be felt.

It is the perfect setting for Duxbury residents to line Washington Street for the town's annual Fourth of July Parade, and as best-selling author John McCaig sees it, the

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the start of this thriller. The mystery's opening line features a young police officer who shockingly exclaims, "This man is dead!"

This line along with the revelation that the victim died from a poison that was given to him while he was driving his float along the paddy's route through Duxbury lures the reader deeper into the plot.

Readers familiar with the first two mystery books, *The Howland Axe Murders* and *The Body at the Bug*, will enjoy McCaig's further character development of his super sleuth Pete Sandstrom. At the suggestion of his wife and mother, McCaig adds a little more passion to the plot by further exploring the romantic connection between Sandstrom and his fiancée Kay Sowell.

But perhaps the most entertaining feature of McCaig's mysteries are his references to Duxbury.

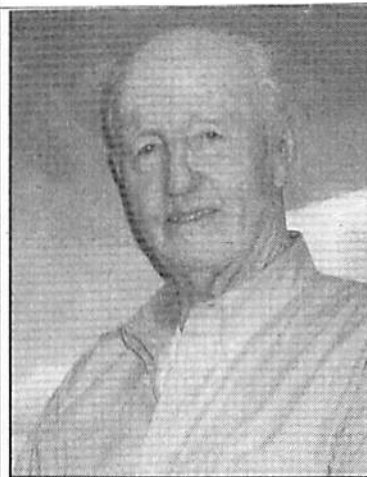
"I enjoy writing about places you know and places

parade is also the perfect setting for his latest murder mystery.

McCaig's third Duxbury murder mystery titled *Murder in the Fourth of July Parade* will appear this week on the shelves of Westwinds Bookshop.

McCaig, who uses the pen name Sean Cernach, captures the reader's attention right from

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John McCaig

you've been," said the 80-year-old novelist.

Murder in the Fourth of July Parade allows the reader to step into the word of hero Pete Sandstrom as he attends many Duxbury affairs, including a cocktail party on Powder Point and a Sunday morning at church.

Firsthand research allows McCaig to have Sandstrom dine at such local hot spots as The Sun Tavern and The Wildflower Café in Hall's Corner.

"After having breakfast one morning at The Wildflower

Café; I returned home and wrote a chapter in which Pete and Kate dine there and I included parts of the cafe's menu," said McCaig.

His ability to capture the essence of a typical day in Duxbury and combine this with a tangled web of murder has given McCaig a recipe for success. There is already a waiting list for his latest book at Westwinds.

"I just want my book to be something people bring to the beach this summer and enjoy reading," said McCaig.

A dollar from each purchase of the book will be donated to the Duxbury parade.